

Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County Department of
Animal Care & Control

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Resolve To Adopt



Have you resolved to be more active in 2007? Many people are looking for ways to get more exercise, be more active, and spend more time outdoors as part of their New Year's resolution. If you're one of them, why go it alone? The Loudoun County Animal Shelter has many wonderful dogs available for adoption who would love to help you get going and keep your resolution for years to come!

Whether it's walking, running, hiking, biking, or just getting out there... we guarantee that your favorite activity will be even more fun with a canine friend.

Plus, our Meet Your Match program, developed by the ASPCA and sponsored by IAMS, will help you determine the right dog for your activity level and interests. Meet Your Match is an innovative program designed to help you find the perfect companion for your personality and interests. It's simple – when you come to the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, you will be asked to complete a quick survey to identify how you envision a dog fitting into your home and family. You'll then receive a color-coded card (purple, orange, or green) which corresponds to the colors on each dog's kennel. Match the color to find the dog that is just right for you!

Whether you are looking for a constant companion for walks around the block, or a high energy go- getter to keep up on long runs, we will help find the right dog for you.

View our dogs available for adoption online at www.loudoun.gov/animals, or come visit us in person! We hope to see you soon!

Happy Birthday to Us

2007 marks the **40th Anniversary** of the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, and we are going to celebrate all year long!

The Animal Shelter was originally constructed by the Humane Society of the United States in 1967 and was purchased by the county in 1974. The facility was remodeled, modernized and expanded in 2000.

We have lots of exciting 40th anniversary plans, and are making more every day! Already in the works is an online gallery of pets adopted from the Shelter, along with a special 40th Anniversary

Homeward Bound event in June!

We need your help! If you adopted a pet from the Animal Shelter, let us know! We'd love to see your photos and read your stories for our "alumni" gallery. Just send them via email to Laura Danis at laura.danis@loudoun.gov.

Stay tuned to *Gimme Shelter* and our website for more details on the 40th Anniversary celebration!



We're Gonna Floor You!



The Department undertook a major project this month—we had all the floors in our animal areas refinished!

The floors in these areas are made of a special material that is specially designed to withstand power washing, bleach, and of course, dog and cat feet.

But, the refinishing process takes several days, requiring us to close our doors and move all the animals out of their regular areas. Dogs spent this time either in foster homes or at the Fairfax Animal Shelter, while cats and small animals moved into offices and hallways.

The floors are now finished and look great! Department staff went above and beyond the call of duty in moving and caring for the animals during this time. Everyone from the animal care staff to Animal Control pitched in to make it happen.

And, we'd like to thank our friends in Fairfax for their hospitality and help.

Come see our new floors!

Rabbit Adoption Day

*A home for a bunny, a home of his own.
Where would a bunny find a home?*

- Margaret Wise Brown

February is **Adopt-a-Rescued-Rabbit Month**, and to celebrate we are teaming up with RabbitWise to host a Home for a Bunny Open House on **Saturday, February 17, 11:00am-1:00pm**.

Rabbits are the third most common animals to be relinquished to shelters, often because owners do not realize the responsibility that they entail.

Rabbits make wonderful pets, but they are not necessarily the best choice as a "starter pet" for a young child. They should be kept as indoor pets, and need attention, care, socialization, and

exercise. Many rabbits get along well with other companion animals such as dogs or cats.

We encourage anyone interested in adding a rabbit to their family to join us for the Home for a Bunny Open House on Saturday, February 17. Representatives from Rabbit Wise, a local rabbit education and advocacy organization, will be on hand to answer all your questions on proper rabbit handling and care.

Plus, all rabbits adopted at the Open House will receive a **FREE** starter cage! It's our way of saying thank you for giving a bunny a home of its own.

For more information on rabbit care and adoption, visit www.rabbitwise.org or www.loudoun.gov/animals.



Employee(s) of the Month

January has been a stellar month—so much so that we have 2 employees of the month!

First, **Virginia Girolami** is being recognized for her excellent and unselfish work as an Animal Control Officer. Virginia has been an ACO for over a year, and she exemplifies the qualities of the position. She is understanding and compassionate in her work, and is always willing to step in and lend a hand to her co-workers.

Virginia was also instrumental in December helping with the Holiday Pet Pantry, and works with the CARE program to ensure that it is a viable option to the less fortunate residents of Loudoun County.

Thank you Virginia for all you do!



Congratulations Virginia!

Secondly, we would like to recognize **Ellen Nadeau** for her outstanding work as an Animal Care Field Technician. Ellen has worked for the Department for 6 years, and was promoted in 2006 to the Field Technician position.

Ellen's efforts and outstanding work in handling difficult situations is highly commendable. She is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that the animals are well cared for, while also supporting her co-workers. Ellen's

commitment and outstanding work ethic serves as an example to other staff and was fully realized when she demonstrated a high level of initiative and energy in our efforts to prepare for and then reestablish operations during our recent floor maintenance. Ellen's positive attitude and love and commitment to the animals is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Ellen for all you do!



Congratulations Ellen!